



City of Glendale
FIRE DEPARTMENT
Office of Public Information
www.glendalefire.com



"Community First"

Press Release

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Three Glendale Paramedics complete Phase 1 of the Community Paramedic Training

Glendale, CA – The Glendale Fire Department is participating in the State of California's Community Paramedic Pilot Project focusing on congestive heart failure. Community para-medicine is a new and evolving model of community-based health care in which paramedics function outside their customary emergency response and transport roles in ways that facilitates more appropriate use of emergency care resources and/or enhance access to primary care for medically underserved populations. The goal of the program is to reduce hospital readmissions by addressing the gaps in follow up care, develop alternate transport facilities to alleviate the pressures on acute care facilities, and supplement primary care services for underserved members of the community.

Three of Glendale Fire Department's finest paramedics volunteered to take on the added responsibility of becoming a community paramedic for the City of Glendale. Captain Tucker, Firefighter Mejia and Firefighter Donnelly completed the first phase of their training on Thursday, February 19, 2015. This phase consisted of ninety-six hours of specialized training that builds upon the skill sets of experienced paramedics in order for them to implement an integrated approach to health care delivery. According to Captain Tucker, "This is the largest ground breaking change to the healthcare system since adding paramedics in the 1970's"

Alternate transport facility training is the next step in the Community Paramedic journey. This four-hour training will discuss when a patient can be transported to a medical facility such as an urgent care instead of being taken to the emergency room. The final phase of the program requires a higher level of training and dedication. The Community Paramedics are required to complete 120 hours of hands-on training, which includes hospital internships, working with physicians, caseworkers and patient interactions. Upon completion of phase two and three, the Glendale Fire Community Paramedics will officially move into the community and address the needs of the community in hopes to improve the quality of life for the residents of Glendale. The Glendale Fire Department would like to congratulate Captain Tucker, Firefighter Mejia and Firefighter Donnelly on the completion of phase one and are here to support them as they move into phase two and three of the program.

To learn more about the Glendale Fire Department's participation in the Community Paramedic Pilot Project, please call 818-548-4800.

The mission of the Glendale Fire Department is to protect life and property by providing the highest level of service to the community. For more information about the Glendale Fire Department, go to

www.glendalefire.org.

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